

## Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 0690

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-82

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: NATO FORCE GOALS 1975-80

REF: A. STATE 022580

B. USNATO 0428 EXDIS

C. USNATO 0404

D. JCS 7645 NOTAL

E. STATE 009700

1. WASHINGTON'S LATEST MESSAGE ON NATO FORCE GOALS (REF A) DOES NOT FULLY RESPOND TO THE POINT MADE IN REFERENCES B AND C, NAMELY THAT THE US SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE STANDARD PATTERN AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE CURRENT PROCESS OF DEVELOPING NATO FORCE GOALS TO INFLUENCE IMPROVEMENTS IN ALLIED CONVENTIONAL FORCE CAPABILITIES IN THE DIRECTION THE US THINKS IS IMPORTANT.

2. AS POINTED OUT, NATO FORMULATES FORCE GOALS ONLY EVERY TWO YEARS. THE US HAS THE OPPORTUNITY HERE AND NOW TO SHAPE THE NATO GUIDANCE (NATO FORCE GOALS) ON WHICH MAY ALLIES BASE THEIR FUTURE FORCE STRUCTURES AND CAPABILITIES AND TO BRING TO DPC AND NATIONAL ATTENTION THE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT  
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DECISIONS COUNTRIES MUST TAKE TO IMPROVE, MODERNIZE AND POSSIBLY ALTER THEIR FORCES IN THE INTEREST OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY.

3. IN THE PAST, FORCE GOALS HAVE OFTEN TENDED TO BE UNREALISTIC

SHOPPING LISTS WITH SCANT EFFECT ON NATIONAL PROGRAMS. IF WE ARE TO MOVE NATO IN THE DIRECTION INDICATED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, THE US SHOULD WEIGH THE INDIVIDUAL DRAFT FORCE GOALS AGAINST EACH OTHER, AGAINST REASONABLE INCREASES IN DEFENSE BUDGETS, AGAINST DIFFICULT RESOURCES ALLOCATION, AND AGAINST LOW-COST, NO-COST TASKS. USNATO NEEDS EARLY GUIDANCE ON PROPOSED SPECIFIC CHANGES IN THE DRAFT FORCE GOALS FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE REALISTIC TARGETS THAT CAN AND SHOULD BE MET.

4. DRC IS LIKELY TO BEGIN ITS REVIEW OF COUNTRY CHAPTERS OF DRAFT FORCE GOALS IN MID-FEBRUARY. IN THE PAST, THE DRC HAS ADDRESSED DRAFT FORCE GOALS COUNTRY BY COUNTRY AND WILL--ACCORDING TO ASYG HUMPHREYS--DEVOTE ONE DAY'S EXAMINATION TO EACH IN THE CURRENT CYCLE. TO ACHIEVE GREATEST IMPACT, THE U.S. MUST INJECT ITS PRIORITIES DURING DRC REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY CHAPTERS. IF WASHINGTON DELAYS IN STATING ITS PRIORITIES UNTIL THE FINAL STAGES OF THE FORCE GOALS REVIEW, THE U.S. WILL HAVE LOST A REAL OPPORTUNITY. IN MY PERSONAL VIEW THE ERA OF INCREASING ALLIED DEFENSE BUDGETS PROVIDING THE LUXURY FOR ALLIES, US INCLUDED, OF AVOIDING TOUGH POLITICAL DECISIONS ON NUMEROUS LOW-COST/NO-COST DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WOULD IMPROVE ALLIED DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE IS OVER. IT WILL TAKE TIMELY U.S. LEADERSHIP TO HELP U.S. AND ALLIES SEE THAT FACT AND OVERCOME THE TRADITIONAL RESISTENCES THAT HAVE PREVENTED PROGRESS ON THOSE ITEMS IN THE PAST.  
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